

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 19, 2005, claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0140119 (Acharya) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,862,488 (Mansour-Awad).

It is respectfully submitted that Mansour-Awad does not qualify as prior art. Note that the filing date of Mansour-Awad is July 5, 2002, which is after the filing date of the present application (January 31, 2002). Since Mansour-Awad does not qualify as prior art, the § 103 rejection of the claims over Acharya and Mansour-Awad is defective and should be withdrawn.

Also, Applicant respectfully notes that the Office Action incorrectly asserted that "Acharya discloses substantial features of the claimed invention" 12/19/2005 Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that the teachings of Acharya are quite different from the recited subject matter.

Allowance of all claims, including newly added dependent claims 21-23, is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes that independent claims 1 and 3 have been amended to improve their form – the amendments to claims 1 and 3 do not change the scope of the respective claims.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025 (10010118-1).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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